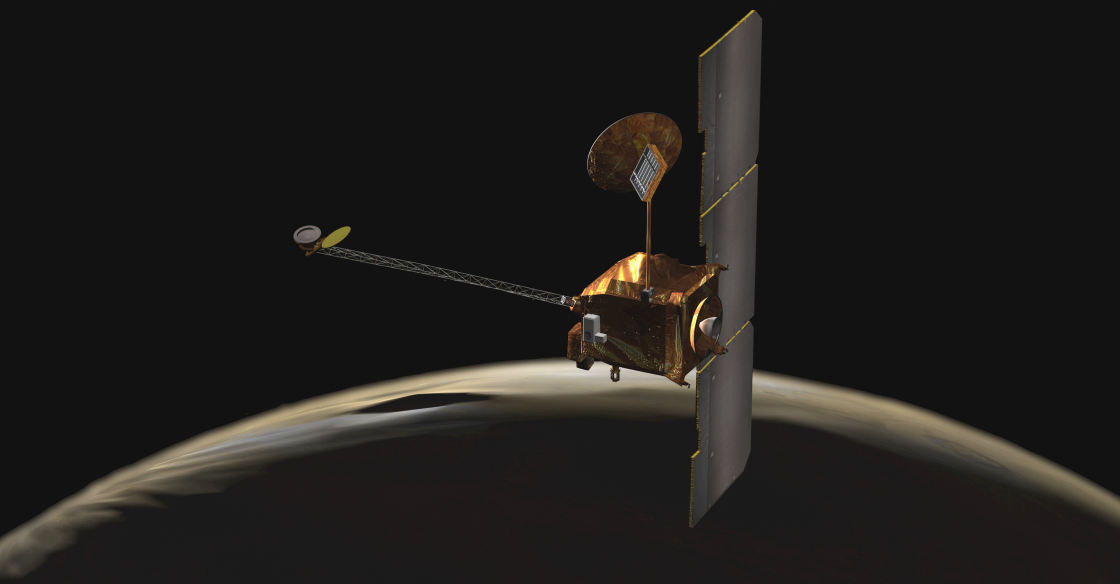
# ODYSSEY 2010

## PROGRESS REPORT THREE



THE 61ST BRITISH NATIONAL
SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
RADISSON EDWARDIAN HEATHROW
2 - 5 APRIL 2010

# REDEMPTION 'II

## 25 – 27 February 2011

**Britannia Hotel, Coventry, UK**

## The Multimedia Science Fiction Convention

**A convention run by fans for fans**

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For more information, write with SAE to: Ian Murphy, 61 Chaucer Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 8SP, UK

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# ODYSSEY2010

## GUESTS OF HONOUR

ALASTAIR REYNOLDS
CARLOS EZQUERRA
IAIN M BANKS
LIZ WILLIAMS
MIKE CAREY
FRAN & JOHN DOWD

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# FROM THE CHAIR

## RITA MEDANY

This is going to be a fairly short introduction as we need all the available space for other stuff! As I write this, we are just six weeks away from the convention and as you'd expect, I am bouncing gently between avid excitement and mild panic.

We planned ahead and tried to spread the workload out evenly over the two year period, but there are quite a few things that can only be done in the last few weeks. Fortunately I have been lucky enough to have had a fantastic team of people helping me prepare for the convention, and the mildness of my panic is entirely due to the way they have all calmly gone about getting things ready. Well done team and thank you!

We've got 1,000+ members coming along to the convention and a full-on programme lined up that will start early on Friday and end late into Monday evening. On Thursday evening we've made arrangements to hold a buffet meal at the Radisson to kick things off and would be delighted if you could join us for this event. To book for the meal, go into your membership record and add the number of people you wish to book a meal for in the Thursday Meal section at the end of the form.

I am delighted to report that two competing bids have notified us of their intention to bid for the 2012 Eastercon. Odyssey's treasurer, Mel Davis, and I are part of the team behind one of the bids but we very much welcome news of a competing bid, as this demonstrates to us the increasing energy and popularity of Eastercon that we both wanted to see after the low point in 2007, when the winning bid for that year had to take the decision to fold due to an insufficient level of hotel room bookings at the six months out stage.

I look forward to seeing you all in six weeks time!

**Rita**

# CONTACT US

Please don't hesitate to talk to us if you have any questions or issues.

General questions: **enquiries@odyssey2010.org**
Or by post: Rita Medany, 4 Evesham Green, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 9RX.

Membership/Hotel related enquiries: **membership@odyssey2010.org**
Or by post: Fiona Marshall, c/o Coton House, Conference Centre, Rugby, CV23 0AA.

Programme related enquiries: **programme@odyssey2010.org**

To volunteer to help out either before or during the con: **volunteers@odyssey2010.org**

You can also find us on the web at **http://www.odyssey2010.org/** and we maintain a presence on a wide range of social networking sites including LiveJournal, Facebook and Twitter, however please remember that the above addresses are the fastest and most reliable way to contact the committee directly with any queries you may have.

# HOTEL UPDATE

## IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

### Confirmation of Room Bookings at the Radisson

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be emailing you to confirm your room booking details so please look out for this email and reply back as soon as you can to allow us to finalise the bookings in good time. If we don't hear back from you we will write to you or try to contact you by telephone. **If we still haven't heard back from you by Friday 12th March, we will have to release your room to the next person on the waiting list.** Please ensure you don't let this happen if you intend to come to the convention and want to stay at the Radisson!

### Waiting List for the Radisson

The main hotel has been effectively full for some time now, and we have a waiting list of members who would like to book a room if one becomes available. The hotel will shortly be releasing to us any remaining rooms they have, and after we have dealt with requests for changes to room configurations, we will be allocating these out to convention members who are on the waiting list.

### Overflow Hotels

There are still some rooms available at our overflow hotels at the time of printing, but these are going fast so if you are planning to stay at one of these hotels, please book your room as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Note that Odyssey is not handling bookings for the overflow hotels so you will have to contact the hotels directly.

The *Park Inn Heathrow* is a short walk away from the Radisson Edwardian, or one stop on the free bus service. Prices per room per night are single £69, twin/double £79, triple £89, or quad £99. Contact 020 8759 9991 and quote reference **ODYS0204** to book**.**

The *Renaissance London Heathrow* is approximately 300 metres from the Radisson Edwardian on the other side of Bath Road. There are two light-controlled pedestrian crossings across Bath road with dropped curbs to allow easy transit. Prices are single £75 or double £85. Contact 020 8897 6363 and quote reference **ODY** to book**.**

The *Marriott London Heathrow* is located about 250 metres along Bath Road from the Radisson Edwardian. Prices are single £99, double £109, or family £119 (family rooms sleep up to four people). Contact 0800 221 222 and choose option 2 to book. Reference code is **R21A** for single/ double rooms and **R22A** for family rooms.

### Parking at the Radisson

The Radisson will charge you £5 *for the first twenty-four hours* after you enter the car park, and another £5 for each additional twenty-four hour period. This rate is available to all convention members, not just those resident in the Radisson. **NB. if you leave the car park, you will lose any remaining time you had on your ticket, and will have to pay another £5 for the twenty-four hour period from the time of your return.**

Parking is free for blue badge holders. Parking for ordinary motorcycles is free, but not for three-wheelers or motorcycles with side-cars.

We will be making arrangements to allow dealers, tech crew etc. to carry out large-scale loading/ unloading without having to pay for whole twenty-four-hour periods.

# GETTING THERE

## DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

## BY CHRIS O'SHEA

Simple version: the hotel is on the north side of the A4, right by Heathrow Airport. Postcode: **UB3 5AW**

Radisson Edwardian Heathrow Hotel, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW.

**By Road**

The hotel is on the north side of the A4, immediately north of Heathrow Airport. If you can get to the M25 or M4 easily, come in on the M4 towards London and take the Heathrow spur road at Junction 4a. You want to get on the A4 headed east (towards London). The hotel is almost immediately on your left once you are on the A4.

Coming east on the A4 from Slough and the M25, after passing the M25 you'll pass several hotels on your left and you'll see signs directing you to turn right to get to Heathrow Terminals 1,2 & 3. Keep going until you see a McDonalds on your left and the Renaissance Hotel on your right as you get to a set of traffic lights. You can either turn left at the McDonalds and follow the directions below (Boltons Lane and Mondial Way) for the north car park at the back of the hotel, or continue on the A4 a few hundred yards and the Radisson is the first big hotel on your left after the next side turning.

Coming west (out of London) on the A4, you'll pass where the A30 splits off to go south of the airport. Stay on the A4 and a short while later you'll start passing hotels on your right, including a circular one. Shortly after that you'll see first the Sheraton, then the Marriott and then the Radisson Edwardian on your right, and the Renaissance Hotel ahead on your left. At the Renaissance Hotel, turn right towards the McDonalds and go down the side road beside it (Boltons Lane). Turn right at the mini roundabout into Mondial Way. At the next mini roundabout the hotel will be immediately in front of you. The first exit leads to the hotel's main (north) car park behind the hotel. If you want to get to the front entrance of the hotel instead, you have to take the roundabout's second exit and follow Mondial Way back to the A4, then take the immediate next left into the hotel's front car park.

**By Public Transport**

The easiest way is to get to Heathrow Airport (Terminals 1,2,3 on the tube, or if you're feeling wealthy you can get the Heathrow Express from Paddington for about £15 single fare) and then get a bus from the Heathrow Central bus station to the hotel. It is within the free travel zone, so just tell the driver you're getting off at the Radisson and there should be no charge. You can take routes 105, 140 or 285. When you see the McDonalds ahead on your left, ring the bell to get the bus to stop. Alternatively, leave the tube at Hatton Cross Station and catch a 285 or 423 bus towards Heathrow – ring the bell when you see the Marriot Hotel on your right.

While you can take a taxi from the airport, we would not recommend this as the short trip will be far more expensive than you expect. Another alternative to the free buses is the Hotel Hoppa bus service: the H3 runs from the airport to the hotel (and to the Marriott and Sheraton) for £4 per person.

If you're coming from London Waterloo (or in from Reading), you can take the train to Feltham Station and then get the 285 bus to the Radisson. It's Travelcard Zone 6 for both the train and the bus (Feltham is outside the Heathrow Freeflow free fare zone). You'll be dropped off on the wrong side of the A4, but there is a pedestrian crossing next to the bus stop. The 285 bus runs 24 hours, but the trains to/from Feltham station end around midnight. Tubes to Heathrow may run a little later.

**By Air:**

Fly directly to Heathrow and follow the Public Transport directions above, or fly to Gatwick, Luton or Stansted and catch a Heathrow transfer bus. If flying into Gatwick, an alternative is to take a train to Clapham Junction, change onto the Reading or Windsor & Eton Riverside train and get off at Feltham Station, then catch a 285 bus as above.

NOTE: while it looks like walking distance from Heathrow Airport to the hotel, there is no pedestrian access into or out of the airport.

# WORLDCON BID LAUNCH

## BY STEVE COOPER

It's official. There is to be a local bid for the 2014 Worldcon, and the bid will be launched at Odyssey 2010.

The prospective bid was first publicly discussed at LX (last year's Eastercon), when a presentation was given about the progress that had been made so far. At that stage there were three potential sites left in the running: World Forum – Den Hague, The SECC – Glasgow, and ExCeL – London Docklands.

The final site has since been chosen by a bid committee formed shortly after LX, and all the necessary preparation has been put in place for the official launch of the campaign for 2014 to be the year of the next European Worldcon.

The launch will kick off with a gala reception at 9pm in Newbury 1 on Friday night, where beer, wine and other libations will be provided to toast the chosen bid site, which will be announced by Chris Priest (Guest of Honour at the 2005 Glasgow Worldcon).

At midday on Saturday the bid committee will host a Q&A session to answer any questions you may have about the bid, the site or Worldcon in general.

The bid will also have a stand in the Dealers' Room, where you can go to pledge your support for the bid and sign up for a mystery event on the Monday, for which ***places are limited,*** so come along early to avoid missing out.

Many people in the con-running community are very excited about the bid, and we're fairly sure that once you've heard all about it you will be excited too. Worldcons offer something unique – size *does* matter. With hundreds of professionals and thousands of fans in attendance, there is sure to be plenty of interest for everyone.

# ALASTAIR REYNOLDS

## ALL THE COLOURS OF SPACE

## BY VINCENT DOCHERTY

Odyssey's Guest of Honour, Alastair Reynolds, has published eight SF novels and several dozen shorter works to date. During the last decade he has increasingly become known as one of the leading writers in the genre, with a focus on far-future Hard SF and Space Opera, and stories which are often notable both for their scientific accuracy and for their darkness, gothic, noir or industrial feel, and surprising, often mystery-based twists.

While growing up in Wales and Cornwall, Al was a fan of many SF shows and books and he was inspired to start writing stories, producing two novels by the time he was 16. He continued to write during his studies in physics and astronomy and his first published story appeared in *Interzone* magazine in 1990 around the time he completed his PhD. In 1991 he joined the European Space Agency in Noordwijk in the Netherlands, where he worked on a series of technical projects on telescopes and image enhancement, while still writing in his spare time. His stories continued to appear in various magazines and anthologies throughout the 1990's, and by 2004 he felt able to work full-time as a writer. He moved back to Wales in 2008.

The first story of Al's I read was in fact his first novel *Revelation Space*, which appeared in 2000. It had an immediate impact both on me and on many in the field, with its extremely strong storyline and characters, 'Stapledonian' scale and ambition, detailed depiction of a highly fractured future human society in a colourful, but hostile galaxy with a limited number of alien species and, of course, a big mystery. It's difficult to exaggerate the impact that first novel had, and many reviews of the decade point to it as a key work in content, tone and in helping to establish the 'New Space Opera'. Much of Al's work since then, both in novel and short form, has continued the storyline of the *Revelation Space* Universe, and I found them just as rewarding, scary and surprising.

His scientific background and love for technology come across strongly both in his stories and in person, which I saw recently when I heard him describe his response to a Space Shuttle launch and seeing the Apollo display at the Kennedy Space Centre. Many in the field admire his ability to combine that technical rigour with the vividness of his stories, and their richly described, weird, almost fantastical creations, bordering on gothic horror. He recently remarked that when growing up he was expected to follow an artistic career, and although he chose a different path, he still has a strong interest in the arts and in painting and drawing. It's no surprise, then, to find that visual sense emerging in his stories, which often have colourful titles.

His stories cover enormous scales of time and space, and often include the most horrifying and violent events and characters, all described so expertly that the images from the stories can linger. Yet his work also contains redemption and compassion and humour, at a very human scale, and Al in person is mellow, friendly and kind. For instance, in the same year that *Revelation Space* appeared, he was a last-minute and first-time Guest of Honour at the Beneluxcon I chaired in Maastricht. He very kindly stepped in to help and was a charming and able speaker, well-prepared and very happy to mix with fans as both a life-long fan himself and as writer and guest. He has been a popular guest at a number of cons since then.

Since *Revelation Space*, Al has published two direct sequels, *Redemption Ark* and *Absolution Gap*, along with *The Prefect* and the BSFA-Award-winning *Chasm City,* which are set in the same

universe but can be read independently. He has also written three stand-alone SF novels: *Century Rain, Pushing Ice* and *House of Suns.* Each has its own tone and carefully crafted universe. Several of his works received Arthur C. Clarke and BSFA Award nominations. His latest novel, *Terminal World*, will be released in the UK just before Odyssey, and in the US in the summer. Most of his shorter work has now been published in collections and all of his books remain in print.

That reliable delivery of work over the last decade has resulted in the recently announced, and widely reported, 10-year, 10-book deal which Al agreed with his publisher Gollancz. This will include his first trilogy, *the 11k sequence,* which has, as part of its setting, a technologically advanced and economically dominant future Africa.

I've gotten to know Al and his wife Josette quite well, both at cons and as neighbours in the Netherlands for a number of years, and I'm delighted they will join us at Easter. As a leading member of the current generation of British SF writers, and of the forms of SF some describe as the 'New Space Opera' and 'New Weird', Alastair Reynolds is an excellent and deserving choice to be Guest of Honour at the British National SF Convention.

# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

**Souvenir Book Reporters**

We need reporters and photographers to attend key events at the con and produce material for our post-con souvenir book. Please contact gaspode@gaspode.net if you wish to volunteer.

**Finance Assistant**

If you're interested in learning more about convention financing, we'd like a volunteer to help with at-con finance tasks. Please contact our treasurer, Mel Davis, on melster9@hotmail.com

**Main Hall Managers**

We need some main hall managers. Must be capable of politely, but firmly, asking people to leave the stage BEFORE the end of the hour so as to leave time for people to get in for the next item. Please contact Judith Proctor on programme@odyssey2010.org to volunteer.

**Gophers**

Additional gophers are always welcome and will receive payment in at-con beer/food tokens known as groats. To volunteer in advance as a gopher or any other at-con role, please contact Rachael Livermore, our Gopher Dad, on volunteers@odyssey2010.org

# TOUR FOR EUROPEAN VISITORS

There will be a special introduction to London for mainland European visitors held on March 31st, the Wednesday before the convention. SF enthusiasts from The Science Fact & Science Fiction Concatenation team have volunteered to be personal guides to introduce you to central London including a short cruise down the River Thames, then seeing some of the sights in London's West End and ending the day in a traditional pub.

If you are from mainland Europe and wish to take part, contact enquiries@odyssey2010.org
Please note we will need to know numbers well in advance so that sufficient guides are available.

More useful information about London for European fans, especially those also coming to the World Horror Convention, is available on the Concatenation web site at:
http://www.concatenation.org/conrev/london_must_see.html

# BATTLESTAR ATLANTIA LIVE ROLE PLAYING GAME

***The Cylons were created by man.***
***They rebelled. They evolved.***
***And they have a plan...***

*Some say that life here began out there, on the mythical world of Kobol, where men and the gods lived together in peace. But that was before men crossed the seas of space to found the Twelve Colonies. Centuries passed. We became prideful and complacent, and we made the Cylons to serve us. Then the Cylons rebelled. Many died in that war, after which the Cylons left to find their own corner of space. We never thought we would see them again.*

*Forty years later, the Cylons have returned.*

The *Battlestar Atlantia* Live Role Playing Game is your chance to experience the re-imagined *Battlestar Galactica* universe as a survivor of the Second Cylon War.

The game is set upon another battlestar, the *Atlantia*, which also managed to escape the holocaust but which is completely cut off from, and does not know of the existence of, the *Galactica*. In the aftermath of the attack the senior officer, Admiral Nagala, who has been grievously injured, imposes Martial Law on the fleet – but as the immediacy of the attack passes and no Cylon ships appear to hunt down the remaining humans, the civilian population becomes dissatisfied with the situation and unrest begins to stir.

If the human race is to continue, a new, durable system of government needs to be established. The game will revolve around the survivors' efforts to unify the fleet under a new civilian government, and the political wranglings of those who would take control as they pursue their own personal agendas. Officers and enlisted men and women, politicians and scientists, parents and children must overcome their differences to forge a new system of government for the remnants of the human race and begin the search for a new home. Against this backdrop, the military must deal with the ever-present threat that the Cylons may find the fleet and destroy it, or have spies amongst the military or civilian population who may sabotage the *Atlantia*, turn the survivors against each other, or reveal the fleet's position to the enemy.

The game will consist of a series of one or two-hour sessions spread across the Eastercon weekend when the main plot will occur, with the opportunity for participants to continue to roleplay between and around these sessions if they so desire. It is not necessary to attend all the sessions in order to enjoy the game and to make a meaningful contribution to the development of the plot.

Costume is encouraged and easy to do – modern clothes for civilians and combat trousers with grey t-shirt and black vest or similar for military characters – but not required.

## PLACES ON THE BATTLESTAR ATLANTIA GAME WILL BE LIMITED!

For further information, and to guarantee your place by registering in advance, visit:

www.battlestaratlantia.info

Do you have what it takes
TO STAND UP TO THE CYLONS?
DO YOUR PART FOR HUMANITY
JOIN THE BATTLESTAR ATLANTIA LIVE ROLE PLAYING GAME
AT ODYSSEY 2010 - WWW.BATTLESTARATLANTIA.INFO
COLONIAL FLEET INFORMATION SERVICE

# SCI-FI-LONDON

## SCIENCE PLUS FICTION

**The London International Festival of Science Fiction and Fantastic Film** or SCI-FI-LONDON as we like to be known, promotes science fact as well as fiction.

Filmmakers often tell us that sci-fi is tough to make due to a perceived need for special effects or lack of credible stories. Our festival looks at new ways of telling stories and puts cutting-edge research and practice in the spotlight.

Scientists, comic artists, leading genre writers and filmmakers explore where fact and fiction intersect.

Check our website for full details of our events or to watch one of the hundreds of free films on offer.

SFL9: 28.04.10 - 03.05.10 WWW.SCI-FI-LONDON.COM

# In 2010 Australia will be the centre of the Science Fiction and Fantasy world

Aussiecon 4
68th World Science Fiction Convention
Melbourne Convention Centre
Melbourne Australia
2-6 September 2010

## Guests of Honour

**Kim Stanley Robinson**
Hugo and Nebula Award Winning Author

**Shaun Tan**
World Fantasy, Aurealis and Ditmar Award winning artist

**Robin Johnson**
Fan guest of honour

Panels, presentations, readings, signings, workshops, parties... international and Australian authors, editors, agents, publishers, scriptwriters, artists, fans and more

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**www.aussiecon4.org.au**

# MISSING ARTWORK

**Have YOU seen this painting?**

**The original disappeared from the artshow after the Eastercon LX2009 at the Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford.**

**any information regarding its whereabouts gratefully received.....**

**Chris Moore**
**07967 350265**

# LIZ WILLIAMS
## BY DEIRDRE COUNIHAN

Anyone who gets to know Liz Williams soon becomes aware that she is expert at living in two, or maybe even three different worlds at once. Since Liz is the daughter of a stage magician and a Gothic novelist, this is, perhaps, not entirely surprising.

She has a background in History and Philosophy of Science (Manchester and Sussex and a Doctorate from Cambridge) and she seems to have done a fair bit of Archaeology besides.

Though she jokingly admits that at one time she was employed on Brighton's Palace Pier as a Tarot Reader (everyone knows the problems writers face in finding a suitable day job to combine with their creative life) one needs to add that she has also been extensively involved in educational consultation in Kazakhstan (and so speaks Russian as well).

When I first met Liz, she was a pillar of the Brighton Women's Centre. We had joined the same SF Writers' Group, which was run by the late Peter T Garratt (to whom she later dedicated *Banner of Souls*). Liz swiftly started to rise up the publications ladder, nor was she the only member of our group to do so.

It may not be widely appreciated quite how important these writers' groups are in the SF writing scene – and they seem to be notably strong on the south coast. Liz and I were also members of another one led by Leigh and Chris Priest further down the coast at Hastings. SF and Fantasy writers are a particularly friendly and supportive lot – just as SF and Fantasy fans are. At that time, both *Interzone* (under Dave Pringle) and *Scheherazade* magazines (produced by my sister Liz Counihan and myself) were being published in Brighton. SF readers and writers met (and still meet) on a regular basis for evenings at the pub.

Most of these groups in the UK are run to what is termed "Milford rules" after the "Milford" writers' workshops in the USA, and what they basically do is de-glitch group members' work ready for publication, so over the years, the group has had the huge enjoyment of being in on the process as Liz Williams' story lines filled out and grew. She in turn is a very astute, witty and constructive critic and these days as well as teaching Creative Writing and the History of Science Fiction, she is the Secretary of the main UK Milford Writers' Workshop, a week-long session (for published writers) held, at present, at a study centre in Wales. In fact it seems that most of the great and the good in today's UK SF writing attended these workshops at some point in their careers at some equally isolated venue.

Liz Williams' work is out of the ordinary in every sense. Amidst the familiar hardware of interplanetary travel, one finds her making full use of her wide experience of mythologies and folk traditions – not to mention all the complexities of alchemy and oriental demonologies, and, as Ginger Rogers would say, "She can do it all backwards and in high heels."

So, it was our friendship within the Brighton writers' workshop that led Liz and me to set out along the Silk Road, which we did in sections, between 2003 and 2006. Both at turning points in our lives, Liz, in particular, had had to come to terms with the sudden death of her partner Charles (to whom she dedicated both *The Poison Master* and *Nine Layers of Sky*). Through her contacts at

Glastonbury, Liz had discovered a group who were about to go out to Altai in Siberia, a starting place of the Great Silk Road. Appreciating that this was somewhere I'd felt drawn to all my life, indeed the setting of much of my writing, Liz proposed that we should join them. So having got ourselves gym-fit and with all the correct injections (the anti-tick one being memorably horrific) – we set off. Holy mountains, sacred rivers, real Shamans and long-dead frozen princesses – there they really all were.

Subsequently, accompanied by fellow writers' group members Cherith Baldry and my sister Liz Counihan, we went on to visit Uzbekistan and the rest of the Silk Road, from Kashgar to Beijing.

Liz Williams is a most intrepid traveller – somehow she always managed to keep one foot in the everyday West whilst enthusiastically striding the mystic (and often hygienically challenging) path to the East. I have one particular memory of scudding along the edges of the Gobi Desert in a sandstorm-blasted pick-up, only to find her talking on her mobile to her editor back at Tor Macmillan about some minutiae to do with her latest SF creation – three separate worlds indeed!

She has subsequently moved permanently to Glastonbury where she is the director of a Witchcraft supply business – one can only speculate on how many layers of other worlds must await her, and all of us, there?

Liz is currently published by Bantam Spectra (US) and Tor Macmillan (UK), also Night Shade Press and she appears regularly in US *Realms of Fantasy* and *Asimov's* and has been published in many other magazines, including in the UK, *Interzone* and *Scheherazade*.

Novels are: *The Ghost Sister* (Bantam Spectra), *Empire of Bones*, *The Poison Master*, *Nine Layers of Sky*, *Banner of Souls* (Bantam Spectra US, Tor Macmillan UK), *Darkland*, *Bloodmind* (Tor Macmillan UK), *Snake Agent*, *The Demon and the City*, *Precious Dragon* (Night Shade Press), *Winter Strike* (Tor Macmillan), *The Shadow Pavilion* (Nightshade Press) and *The Iron Khan* (2010).

Short collection: *The Banquet of The Lords of Night and Other Stories* (Nightshade Press).

Liz co-edited and is included in two anthologies (so far): *Fabulous Brighton* (with Liz and Deirdre Counihan) and *Fabulous Whitby* (with Sue Thomason).

*Banner of Souls*, *Empire of Bones*, and *The Ghost Sister* were nominated for Philip K. Dick Awards. *Banner of Souls* was also shortlisted for the Arthur C. Clarke Award.

# CONVENTION NEWS

**Enter the Masquerade and Cabaret**

The masquerade is a competition which anyone can enter. You have time between now and the convention to make a really fabulous outfit. It might be Dr Who, or it might be a fabulous fantasy dragon. You can enter as a group (eg. the entire crew of Serenity/a group of Feegles/Titania and her attendants), or as an individual. You can do nothing more than walk across the stage, or you can bring music (make sure you hand it in at the masquerade sign-up session), or you can perform an entire sketch with sound effects and everything (but be absolutely sure to discuss this with tech at the masquerade sign-up!) There will be prizes for the best entries.

The cabaret is non-competitive and is a showcase for the fabulous (and too often untapped) range of fannish talent. If you can sing, dance, play the dulcimer, juggle, do a comedy routine, recite poetry, perform a sketch with friends, etc. then we want you in the cabaret. The only rule of thumb is that acts must be a maximum of five minutes long. If you want a longer spot, we'll consider it, but only if you clear it with Judith first. (Judith@waveney.org)

Cabaret performers should also go to the masquerade sign-up session – it's essential that tech and the MC know what you're doing, who you are and what you need on-stage in the way of mikes and props.

For those who'd like to improve their skills at costume making and presentation, we'll be running a number of programme items in this area.

### Crèche

We have booked Rainbow Crèche Services (the same company Orbital 2008 used) to provide a fully-subsidised crèche. There will be an afternoon session on Friday, morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday and Sunday, and a morning session on Monday. The sessions are four hours long. Places are limited and priority will be given to parents who book in advance. To book a place, email membership@odyssey2010.org with a list of which sessions you would like to use.

In addition to the free crèche, Rainbow can offer an evening babysitting service. This must be booked in advance directly with Rainbow and there will be a charge for using the service. Contact Lydia on info@rainbowcreche.org or phone 020 8568 1195 or 07931 449467 for more details.

### Thursday Evening Meal

Many of us will be at the convention by Thursday evening – 275 and counting are staying at the Radisson that night! We have made arrangements with the hotel for a three course buffet meal to start us all off on the right footing; priced at £15 for those aged 13 and over and £7.50 for children aged 6 to 12. Children under 6 dine for free!

If you would like to join us for the Thursday evening buffet meal, you must book in advance, so that we can give numbers for the meal to the hotel. Payment is on the door on the day.

To book, please complete the meal section at the bottom of your online membership form to indicate the number of adults and children in your booking who will be coming to the meal. If you do not have Internet access or have any problems accessing your membership details, please contact the membership team via the contact details on Page 4 to arrange your meal booking.

### Join Us at the T-Party

The T-Party Writers Group is again running a workshop for writers of SF/F/H at Eastercon. Writers will be selected on a first come, first served basis. Writers are invited to send the first 5,000 words of a novel, or a short story of up to 5,000 words to the co-ordinator Martin Owton (Martin.Owton@virgin.net) as a rich text file (.rtf). Please be aware that your work will be shared with other members of the group for critique purposes and that your work will be subject to analysis and suggestions for improvement. It would be helpful to the organisers if writers could indicate their level of experience. The T-Party is a group of writers focusing on preparing their work for professional publication. The critiquers will include published novelists, agented writers and award winning editors.

There's some seriously good people involved in this workshop (including one of our Guests of Honour). They'll be going through your work before the convention and spending up to four hours during the convention working with writers in small groups.

## Access All Areas

The Radisson has good accessibility, with wheelchair access to most convention areas including restaurants and bars, and an induction loop in the main hall.

In order to ensure you have as good a time as possible at the convention, it would be great if you could let us know in advance:

- If you use an induction loop (so we can reserve an appropriate amount of seating within range of the induction loop).
- If you have mobility requirements AND are taking part in panels/ talks – so we can ensure you have sufficient time to get to your items and we have whatever assistance you need on hand.
- If you are bringing a scooter and aren't staying in the hotel – so we can find you a charging point.
- If you need hire information for scooters or any other specialist equipment.
- If you are booked into the Radisson and you need your bedroom to be near the lift areas. (Note. all disability-friendly rooms in the Radisson are now booked, and we cannot assist directly with arrangements at overflow hotels.)
- Anything we've forgotten here!

If any of these points apply to you, please contact the membership team via membership@odyssey2010.org or the postal address on Page 4.

## Poetry Reading

On Sunday evening we'll be holding a poetry reading, hosted by Chris Morgan who was Birmingham's Poet Laureate for 2008-9. He welcomes you to bring your own poems to read, or to come along and listen to the performance.

Poems can be on any theme, but preferably no more than a page in length.

## Charity Bookstall

The Charity Bookstall will be in the foyer of the Dealers' Room selling second-hand books for charity.

Please bring along and donate any Fantasy and Science Fiction books (and any other fiction or non-fiction) that you no longer want, but other fans might enjoy.

## Pack your Dancing Shoes!

We're planning something for every taste, both to help you wake up in the morning and to let your hair down in the evenings.

On Friday and Monday mornings, you'll have the chance to learn an old Lancashire morris dance. North West morris is a very different tradition from the Cotswold morris dances that most people are familiar with.

Friday evening is the ceilidh, dancing to Pigeon English and with interval music by Playing Rapunzel. (We'll be having a ceilidh workshop earlier in the day for anyone who is lacking in confidence, but all dances will be called, so you'll get along fine if you don't know them.) Many of our men look fabulous in kilts, so I hope some of you will take the opportunity to dress to the hilt!

On Saturday morning, just for a change, Jim and Carrie will be teaching us how to dance the Lindy Hop.

Saturday night is the disco with our DJ Marwan. Our theme is New Romantics – dig out that make-up and retro clothing and go for broke.

Sunday morning will have a belly dance session, directly after the Tai Chi session.

On Sunday evening, we offer a Steampunk Ball for your delight. Dress Victorian/Goth and have a ball!

John Naylor is donating a weekend membership to Asylum 2010 as the prize for the best costume at the Steampunk Ball. See http://steampunk.synthasite.com/ for information on Asylum 2010.

## Hay Lecture

This year's George Hay Memorial Lecture (sponsored by the Science Fiction Foundation) is on the topic of Geoengineering. The speaker is Oliver Morton. This is what he has told us about his chosen topic:

"Geoengineering – the use of technology to cool the planet – is often taken as an alternative to the more conventional approaches to global warming: emitting fewer greenhouse gases and adapting to the changing climate. Framing geoengineering this way allows advocates to sell it as a quick fix, and opponents to see it as a dangerous, possibly disastrous, distraction. I will be arguing that this way of thinking is a blind alley. We are not dealing with either/or, but with both/and. It is time to explore geoengineering's potential not as an alternative to other approaches, but as a tool to improve their chances of success.

"About myself: I'm a writer and editor who concentrates on scientific and technological change and their effects. I am currently the Energy and Environment Editor of *The Economist*: I have also been the Chief News and Features Editor of *Nature*, and the Editor in Chief of *Wired UK*. I've won a few awards, and my first book, *Mapping Mars* (which deals, among other things, with terraforming, geoengineering's twin technology) was shortlisted for a British Science Fiction Award. In explaining my books, *Mapping Mars* and *Eating the Sun*, to people I often say that they are basically non-fiction SF.

"I blog at http://heliophage.wordpress.com, and used to blog at http://mainlymartian.blogs.com"

## NewCon Press and Constable & Robinson Book Launch (Friday 6pm)

Four new titles are being launched. There will be free drinks and discounts on books, with many of the contributing authors present to sign and dedicate.

Being launched from NewCon Press:

- *Conflicts* edited by Ian Whates, with stories by Neal Asher, Chris Beckett, Keith Brooke, Eric Brown, Michael Cobley, Una McCormack, Andy Remic, Martin Sketchley and more.
- *Faraway Frankie* by Keith Brooke, with an introduction by Adam Roberts.
- *Orgasmachine* by Ian Watson. First English language publication.

Constable & Robinson are launching *The Mammoth Book of Alternate Histories* edited by Ian Watson and Ian Whates.

## Solaris Book Launch Party (Saturday 6pm)

Solaris is launching *Shine: An Anthology of Optimistic SF.*

Editor Jetse de Vries and the following *SHINE* authors will be there: Alastair Reynolds, Gareth Lyn Powell, Aliette de Bodard and Eva Maria Chapman.

## BSFA Lecture

This year's BSFA lecture will be given by Nick Lowe on the subject, *2001 and the Narratology of Transcendence*.

Why does film, the most vivid and visceral of narrative media, struggle to capture the deepest, most powerful SF experiences? The bizarre untold story of the script of *2001*, and the strange trajectory of screenwriting theory since, suggest why SF film remains trapped on this side of the narratological stargate...

## And the Walls Came Tumbling Down

Explosives and pyrotechnics are used in many feature films and more so in science fiction productions.

Stephen Miller has been working with explosives for over 26 years, initially fireworks and pyrotechnics, then as a bomb disposal engineer, MoD research scientist, special effects co-ordinator and now as a freelance explosives consultant.

Steve's presentation will centre around an explosives special effects sequence conducted for a feature film called *The Fall*, where an Indian temple needed to be demolished. Steve designed and executed the explosive sequence required to achieve the effect desired by the director. The presentation will include behind the scenes photos and videos and a full explanation of the various techniques and materials employed to create the effect.

Some of these techniques and materials will be demonstrated live during the presentation (not for the faint hearted or sensitive) along with other stage and film pyrotechnics effects.

## The Principality of Insulae Draconis

(Part of the Society for Creative Anachronism.)
Re-creating the skills and crafts of peace and war in the Middle Ages, the SCA owes its roots to the science fiction and fantasy world. Founded in the 1960s by Diana Paxson and friends, it has such legendary members as Marian Zimmer Bradley, Poul Anderson, Katherine Kurtz, Randall Garrett, Robert Asprin, SM Stirling and Rick Cook.

Insulae Draconis is a group, covering Britain, Ireland and Iceland. It is an historical recreation group interested in the activities, artefacts, and arts of Mediaeval Europe prior to the 17th century. It is a part of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), an international society with branches in the UK and Ireland, many European countries, South Africa, Japan, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand, and across North America.

The SCA encourages its members to explore the parts of history and the activities that interest them most. Members study dance, calligraphy, martial arts, cooking, metalwork, costuming, embroidery and literature; if it happened in the Middle Ages, someone in the SCA is learning and trying it out now. They are more than just a costume society, with plenty of events ranging from workshops and revels, visits to museums, to weekends living in castles, to entire fortnight camps involving tens of thousands.

The difference between the SCA and a history class is the opportunity and encouragement to not just study the theory, but to try the practical skills yourself at whatever level of commitment and interest. Look out for their dealers stall on Sunday, along with the medieval combat demonstration and calligraphy workshop.

# MEMBERSHIP LIST

## SINCE PR TWO

835 A Hitch
836 A Derek Macleod
837 A Rosanne Rabinowitz
838 A Andrew Hook
839 A Jon Crew
840 A Rich McAllister
841 A Lin McAllister
842 A Divyam
843 A Ian R MacLeod
844 A Stephen Gaskell
845 A Rebecca J Payne
846 S Karo Leikomaa
847 A Lee Harris – Angry Robot
848 A Terje Pedersen
849 A John Ayliff
850 A Ang Rosin
851 A Sally
852 A Tony Morton
853 A Carol Morton
854 A Ian Sorensen
855 A Yvonne Rowse
856 A Christopher J Garcia
857 A Rafe Culpin
858 A Mark
859 A Delph
860 A Alan
861 A Runesmith
862 J Goth
863 A Dave Hardy
864 A Fantast Three
865 A Robert Maughan
866 A Janet Maughan
867 A The Psycho Chicken
868 A Adrian Smith
869 A Patrice Sarath
870 A Lennart Uhlin
871 A Peter Halasz
872 A John Meaney
873 A Yvonne Meaney
874 A Sarah S
875 A Chris G
876 A Tusela
877 A Freda Warrington
878 A Mike Llewellyn
879 A
880 A Michael Cule
881 A Oliver Morton
882 A Derek
883 A Vicky
884 A Craig Marnoch
885 A Tony Thorne MBE
886 A Mike Cobley
887 A Andy H
888 A Tony Edwards
889 A Andii
890 A Mister E
891 A Al
892 A Marcelo
893 A Rob
894 A Diana Bass
895 A Tom Dodds
896 A Peter Card
897 A Henry Balen
898 A Renee Sieber
899 A Liz de Jager
900 A Mark de Jager
901 A Max
902 A Gérard Kraus
903 A Kasia Kraus
904 A Abigail Nussbaum
905 A Gwen
906 A Kylie Ding
907 I Norah Ding
908 A tinyjo
909 A Alx
910 A
911 A
912 T
913 A Helena Kiel
914 A John Trevillian
915 A Marcus Cotton
916 A Rachel H
917 A Audio_n_Video
918 A Daisee Chain
919 A THE TALKING DEAD
920 A Kirsti
921 A Martijn
922 A Stephanie Burgis
923 A Patrick Samphire
924 I Mr Darcy
925 A Ellen Datlow
926 A Pat Cadigan
927 A Mike Brind
928 A James Lovegrove
929 A Fangorn
930 T Jofli Bear
931 A Anders Hedenlund
932 A Philip Palmer
933 A Karen
934 A Ann Looker
935 A
936 A Ashley Levy Saint
937 A MD Lachlan
938 A Adrian Faulkner
939 A Jonny Nexus
940 A clive troubman
941 A Tomas Cronholm
942 A David Gullen
943 A Persephone Hazard
944 A Stephen Miller
945 A Kksyryllyan
946 A Claude Lalumière
947 A Raj
948 A Zoltan Deathspawn
949 A K
950 A Fiona Clements
951 A Sam Sykes
952 A Anders
953 A Saxon Bullock
954 A Rob Hansen
955 A Avedon Carol
956 A Albert Pickard
957 A Katherine Pickard
958 A sabremeister
959 A Chris Moore
960 A Bella Pagan, Orbit
961 A Roy G. Ovrebo
962 A
963 A Darth Tigger
964 A Chris "electric hedgehog" Dollin
965 A Jack Calverley
966 A LOUDMOUTHMAN
967 A Sara Townsend
968 A Cristina
969 A Alex
970 A Jan Søderberg
971 A
972 A Sara Mulryan
973 A David Blank
974 T Bagpuss Lord of the Tarmac
975 A Neil Dobson
976 A Anthony Webster
977 A Ben Goldacre
978 A Jennifer Rohn

979 A Greyfore
980 A Josh
981 A Becky
982 A Elizabeth Carabine
983 A Ian Taft
984 A Barrie Condon
985 A Alex Bell
986 A Alex Davis – Black Library
987 A Malcolm Ramsay
988 A Gary Gibson
989 A Debbie
990 A Lokifan
991 A John Berlyne – Zeno Agency
992 A Nova
993 A Charles Noad
994 A Jessica Yates
995 A Nick Hubble
996 A Christian
997 A JR Lautner
998 A @rnalexander
999 A Susan Thomas
1000 A Chris Beckett
1001 A Ian P
1002 A ghotihed
1003 A René Arnush
1004 J Pig Ghoti
1005 C ghoticow
1006 A Simon Morden
1007 A Ricardo Pinto
1008 A Philippa Watts
1009 A
1010 A Owen Carpenter
1011 A Mathias Wynne
1012 A Emily Richards
1013 A Nick Lowe
1014 A Pete the Pete
1015 A Oreylith
1016 A Phsthpok
1017 A Hannu Rajaniemi
1018 A Adam Edwards
1019 A
1020 A Tom 'palfrey' Parker
1021 A Ellen/Ariel
1022 A Ian/Raphe
1023 A Katie May
1024 A Astral Gypsy
1025 D Maggie Davison
1026 A David Bishop
1027 A Jonathan Oliver
1028 A Jenni Hill
1029 A Louis Savy
1030 A Jon Weir – Gollancz
1031 A Darren Nash
1032 A Simon Priest
1033 A Lizzy Priest
1034 A Gavin Smith
1035 A Gaie Sebold
1036 A sith happens
1037 A Chris Bradbury
1038 A Ian Duckworth
1039 A Chris Van Wilson
1040 A Eva Maria Chapman
1041 A Alison Page
1042 A Mary Kay Kare
1043 A Adam Christopher
1044 A Herr Doktor
1045 A Brian Gray
1046 A Anne KG Murphy
1047 A Timo Long
1048 A Pia Long
1049 A Mike Shevdon
1050 A Jim Burns
1051 A Mike
1052 A terry jackman
1053 A Neil
1054 A
1055 A Tobes Valois
1056 A Anders Reuterswärd
1057 A Joseph T. Berlant
1058 A Mark Charan Newton
1059 A Rachel Warden
1060 A Jon Courtenay Grimwood
1061 A Tony Ballantyne
1062 A Giles
1063 A Pooks
1064 A Robin Hill
1065 A Michael Pargman
1066 A Stephen Rhodes
1067 D Kerry Rhodes
1068 D Collins Pete
1069 D Bright Nicole
1070 A Mark Cotterill
1071 A Huw Davies
1072 A Ashley
1073 A Susan
1074 A Paul Graham Raven
1075 A Girlofprey
1076 A Hunting Osprey
1077 A DavidBrider
1078 A Hayley
1079 A Simon
1080 A Karen
1081 B Vera
1082 A Richard P Grant
1083 A Nobody Important
1084 A Warwick
1085 A Robert Grant
1086 A Cel West

**Key**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | Attending | B | Beeblebear |
| C | Child | D | Dealer |
| I | Infant | J | Junior |
| S | Supporting | T | Toy |

*List correct as of 3rd March 2010. Some name spaces have been left intentionally blank at members request.*

If you wish to check or alter your membership details, go to: http://www.odyssey2010.org/ and click on "membership services."

Alternatively, you can write to our membership secretary (contact details are on page 4).

**Missing Contacts**

With people moving house or changing their email addresses, we may be holding out of date contact information for some of our members. Please help us to get back in touch with them by keeping an eye on the 'Lost Contact' page on our web site that will hold the names of people we have been unable to trace. If you are in contact with anyone on that page please ask them to get in touch with us.

# CREDITS

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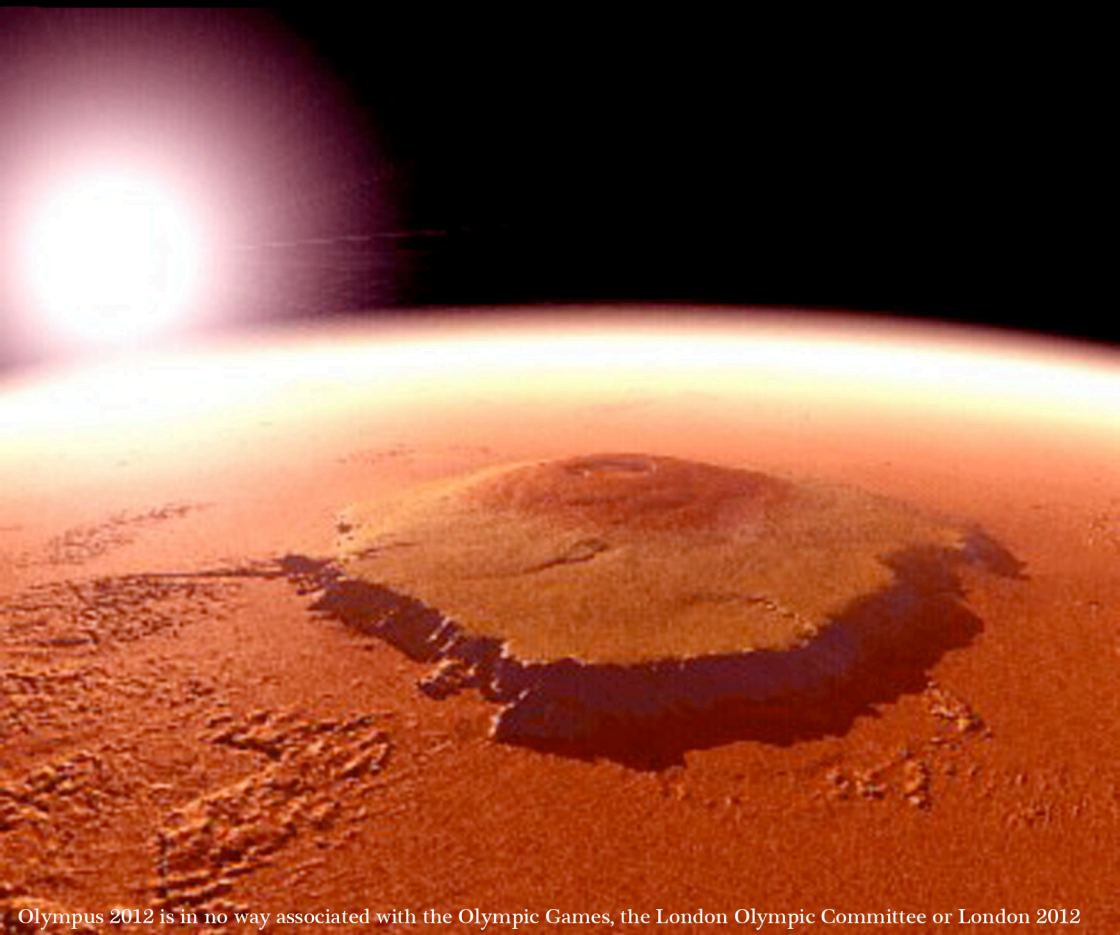

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